



South Hadley Bike/Walk Committee

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South Hadley Bike/Walk Committee (BWC) Minutes

January 4, 2017

Present: Mariann Millard (Chair), Nancy Bozek, Larry Dubois, Doris Dubois, Melissa O'Brien, Jim Armstrong; Lucia Foley
Margaret Jodoin (arrived at 8:15pm)

Minutes of the November 16, 2016 meeting were reviewed and unanimously approved.

BWC members viewed a presentation on photography by Jim Armstrong, a South Hadley resident with an interest in Bike/Walk matters who has assisted us with some recent photography needs. Jim's professional photography business is based in Chicopee (www.jimarmstrongphotography.com), and in a career spanning some 30 years, he has photographed people, places, and things for a wide range of clients, including Holyoke Medical Center.

A letter from BWC in support of Phase II of the River to Range Trail grant shared by Mariann was unanimously approved.

PVPC Update

Melissa reported that the Selectboard and Mike Sullivan want to be sure that the Plan is used and are pleased to have BWC involvement. A PDF of the document is available on the Bike/Walk page of the town website.

Mike anticipates that 5-6 routes may be selected for signage based on ease of implementation, perhaps as early as spring. BWC would like to see a working group formed move forward and to identify broader recommendations on wayfinding opportunities, and BWC wants to be involved. At our February meeting we will focus on producing a short (one page summary) recommendation memo outlining suggested next steps for submission to the Selectboard.

Communication Liaison Update

When BWC goals for the year were identified last fall the group expressed interest in responding to bike/walk concerns/opportunities as they come up. Mariann noted her regular check-ins with Mike Sullivan allow us to stay informed, and the committee expressed support for the chair's efforts to provide responsive assistance to the town on bike/walk matters when the need arises. To keep members informed, should a letter of support or other action for a relevant project be needed from BWC between meetings, the chair will email a draft to BWC members. To comply with Open Meeting Law, any comments should be sent only to the chair, without copying other members, to avoid "deliberation". The Chair will inform all members of comments received and all actions taken at the next scheduled meeting, which will be included in the meeting minutes.

Falls and uptown locations for approx. 10'x12' Valley Bike Share kiosks were considered, and Mariann will forward BWC site recommendations to Mike Sullivan as follows:

Falls:

Everyone liked the Bridge Street location proposed by Mike, located on a small plot of Town land between the Police Station parking lot and the adjacent former Liquor Town building. Concerns were raised about safety and the location of curb cuts/traffic on either side of the plot, and whether sufficient buffer space is available to comfortably allow for mounting and turning within the space.

Uptown (3 options in order of priority):

1) Our recommended option is located between the Tavern Restaurant and the Post Office. The site is currently

unempt, with a well-worn and muddy shortcut from the sidewalk to the Post Office building, which is highly visible, convenient, and would be improved by placement of a kiosk. Need to confirm ownership, options for permissions.

2) On the Town Common, at the end near Crazy Moon, in space adjacent to the main road that is not typically utilized for functions such as summer concerts and the farmers' market.

3) Adjacent to the bus shelter in front of MHC, across from the Town Common. Adequate space would need to be confirmed.

River Roll and Stroll Update

MassDOT has approved closing the Rt. 116 Bridge for the Holyoke-South Hadley River Roll and Stroll on Sunday, May 7, 2017. The event will be held from 11am to 3pm. Next steering committee meeting is 1/30 at 6:30 pm at the SH Main Library.

Redevelopment Authority Update

Lucia will attend the next RA Advisory Committee meeting as Mariann will be out of town. It is anticipated that the draft plan will be presented.

Trek Report

The 2017 Trek schedule is confirmed through May and can be posted on the website; fall events are still tentative:

Jan 15	Ledges Golf Course and Newton-Jones-Carver Conservation Area (please bring cookies)
Feb 19 or 26	Stone Silo Maple Syrup Farm and LeBlanc Conservation Area (date TBD based on syrup run)
Mar 19	Mount Holyoke College Hidden Gems
Apr 9	Bynan Conservation Area (small lot entrance off Rt 202 and East Street)
May 7	Holyoke-South Hadley River Roll and Stroll on the Route 116 Bridge over the CT River
Jun-Jul-Aug	NO TREKS

Tentative Fall Schedule:

Sep 17	Joint trek with South Hadley Council on Aging
Oct 22	Lithia Springs Hike and Picnic
Nov 19	Bagg-Pierce Conservation Area
Dec 3	Bachelor Brook w/Phase I of new River to Range Trail

Other Business

The next BWC meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 15, 2017 at the South Hadley Public Library.
Action Item: Begin developing recommendations for implementing BikeWalk Master Plan.

Respectfully submitted,
Lucia Foley